THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) According to the procedure laid down by the Government Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) are required to be formulated as an integral part of the coal projects. These EMPs are scrutinised by an Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests and only after formal clearance of the Ministry of Environment & Forests is available investment decisions are taken. These EMPs not only incorporate various environmental protective measures which have to be taken simultaneously with coal mining viz. land reclamation, afforestation, control of air and water pollution etc. but also include adequate measures on rehabilitation of land oustees. Adequate provisions are also being made for implementation of environmental protective measures. Advance EMPs for 10 major coalfields have been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Demand for tractors

*435. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for tractors in the country has slackened;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEPELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No, Sir. The sale of tractors during the year 1991-92 has registered a growth as compared to 1990-91 and the same trend is continuing during the current year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Health hazards due to operations of the Indian Rare Earths Limited

*436. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the operations of Indian Rare Earths Ltd. in Kerala continue to expose children, mothers and offsprings to serious health hazards; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The operation of Indian Rare Earths in Kerala are not exposing children, mothers and offsprings to serious health risks.

However, as a part of a scientific study, the Deptt. of Atomic Energy is currently funding the Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum to carry out a detailed health survey in Karunagapally Taluk in Kerala. This independent study is expected to throw light on the adverse effects, if any, of naturally occuring high background radiation in Kerala on the population.

Evaluation of IRDP

*437. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of IRDP has been evaluated; and

(b) if so, the deatils thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development undertakes Concurrent Evaluation of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) from time to time. The latest round of Concurrent